

Dear Environment Committee,

It is with great concern that I read of the proposed bill SB227 concerning prohibiting the possession of elephant ivory in the state of Connecticut. I am a resident of California but I will be teaching at the Amherst Early Music Festival in July at Connecticut College in New London. This festival attracts the foremost musicians in the field of early music from all over the world. Many of the performers and participants play original historical instruments that may contain ivory. If there is no provision to allow for people visiting Connecticut with objects containing ivory, many faculty and participants will not be able to attend the festival or Amherst Early Music will be forced to find a new venue in another state. Prohibiting possession of historical objects of ivory criminalizes collectors, musicians and unsuspecting persons who may have their great grandmother's ivory necklace tucked away in the bottom of a jewelry case. This does not protect one single elephant alive today but punishes law-abiding citizens. It is imperative that elephants be protected, but the criminals who should be punished are the poachers and those dealing in contraband ivory, not law-abiding citizens. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Thym

290 Electric St.

Auburn, CA 95603